

THE CHILDHOOD OF CONFUCIUS

Confucius (551–479 B.C.E.)—a Chinese philosopher and teacher whose ideas and teachings influenced Chinese (and other Asian countries') government, society, and culture

Lu—the state in which Confucius was born; located in modern-day Shandong Province

Confucius was born in 551 B.C.E. in the state of Lu, located in eastern China. Legends state that before he was born, his mother had a dream about a unicorn who gave her a jade tablet. On the tablet, it was written that her child would be like a king. Even so, Confucius was born to humble circumstances. His family ancestors were members of the nobility, but over the years, his family had become quite poor. His father died when Confucius was only three years old; hence, Confucius was raised by his mother. Confucius was given a good education, and he proved himself to be a fast and eager learner.

GROUP TASK

1. With your group, discuss the paragraph. List the three most important points of the paragraph.
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2. Illustrate each point on a separate sheet of paper. Your illustrations will be added to the class timeline. You can include words on your illustrations. Make sure you write in large letters so that everyone in the room can see.
3. Include these points on your individual timelines.
4. Prepare a short presentation about your illustrations. Your presentation should include
 - a description of each illustration
 - its importance
 - the date (if used)